

# Society

By E. C. DRUM-HUNT.

Washington is still talking about the visit of the Prince of Wales. They have done the talking over the luncheon and dinner tables and at tea parties, for almost everyone was constantly on the go last week. The social calendars were all full.

The "four girls" who were at White Sulphur Springs while the prince was there, were busy relating to their envious friends all the good times they had. Those girls, Mildred Bromwell, Margaret Harding, Jane Story and Millicent Rogers, certainly had a wonderful time. There was never anything like it in the experience of any American girl, I'm sure. Just think of it: for four days they dined with the prince, had luncheon and tea with him, walked with him, rode with him, played golf with him, and even went to church with him. He entertained the girls and their chaperons, Mrs. H. H. Rogers and Mrs. Horace Westcott, in his suite, and they entertained him. It was always just those four, he never asked any other girls at the Springs to join their party.

The first night he was there he went to the "movies" and then immediately joined the girls for the dance which follows the cinema in the ballroom every evening. Mildred Bromwell taught him to "shimmy," and he was crazy about it. They all tried it with him, but they say Mildred was the chief "shimmer," as they expressed it. They all say the prince dances divinely. His entire party came in for lots of "raving," too; the girls pronounce them all charming. Mrs. Rogers gave them all a tea dance at the home of the prince, and the prince went to New York, and he danced up until exactly three minutes before his train pulled out at 8:30, and then tore himself away with great regret.

## GIRLS HURRIED HOME FOR PARTY.

The girls had planned to remain at the famous old West Virginia resort until Thursday but instead hurried home in time to be here for the luncheon at the Cafe St. Marks, which was given at the home of Miss Rogers at Mrs. Whitelaw Reid's ball and he entertained her in his box at the opera.

Mr. H. H. received at tea in the royal suite in the Greenbrier, while at White Sulphur Springs, on Sunday afternoon, Leut. Col. and Mrs. Stephen L. H. Slocum and their niece, Miss Margaret O'Leary, who arrived there from Washington on Saturday to pass several weeks, and also Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt, of New York, who spent the early part of November there for the cure. Miss Flint was presented to the Prince at Mrs. Marshall Field's tea in Washington, and danced with the young British heir at the Saturday evening dancing hour in the Greenbrier following the "movies."

The debutantes held the center of the social stage last week; there was



Mrs. Ocie Hardesty Sheppard, who will fill the stellar role in the opera of Cavalleria Rusticana to be given shortly by the Washington Opera Company at the Belasco Theater.

something on the social program especially for them every day. There was Frances Hampson's luncheon and Marian Drain gave a luncheon for her guests, Misses Alice Hughes and Elsie Pultice, both of Canada. Helen Tucker, the debutante daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cole Tucker, was the honor guest at two big parties, one given by her cousin, Taylor Lodge, at the Cafe St. Marks, and another by Mrs. Claudia Northrup at the Chevy Chase Club. Marcin Chapin entertained twice at a tea at the Cafe St. Marks and at a luncheon last Friday. Letta Adams gave a little theater party for several of her special friends among the debutantes, Nancy Lane and Frances Hampson. Mary Dixon Norris, who is visiting her uncle and aunt, the Attorney General and Mrs. A. Mitchell Palmer, was given a tea party by Mrs. Palmer.

## THE DEBUTANTE PARTIES MANY.

The list of debutante affairs was a long one. Do you suppose this year's buds will ever forget their coming out? They all attended their first formal function when they went to the parties given here in compliment to the Prince of Wales. And such a prince, for he is an unusually attractive one, he would make the girls' hearts go pitter patter even if he were not a prince.

What has become of the mild, retiring debutante of other years? Many times lately that question has been asked at dinners and luncheons where I have been a guest. Many of my older friends in the social world are wont to mourn the passing of the debutantes who never took an active part in the affairs of the social world and who, attired in a stiff white frock and carrying an old-fashioned bouquet, acted like a scared cat at her formal presentation to society.

A quarter of a century ago the debutantes looked upon their "presentation" as a terrible ordeal—some-

thing which had to be gone through with no matter how painful it might be. Now the debutantes look forward to their debut eagerly. They have a jolly time and the parties no longer have that stately stiffness about them that they did in the olden days.

The era of the shy, retiring society girl has gone—and let us hope will never return. Of course, I do not mean to convey the idea that I would have our debutantes with creatures who are not modest, etc. No, indeed. By the shy, retiring girl I mean the little debutante who comes out to a large dinner party shivering in her pretty satin slippers for fear she may do something which is not "correct." Nine out of ten times she is so upset by this fear that she can hardly talk to the young man who has been placed beside her at dinner, and he immediately marks her down as "stupid." Truth to tell, she may have been a very nice girl—but she lacked poise and savoir faire.

Had she talked to the young man about tennis, golf, her motor car, etc., he would have immediately become interested. I am sure, and his opinion of her would have been quite different.

The majority of the young society girls of these days are of the outdoor type. In many cases they excel their brothers in swimming, tennis, etc., and since the war many of the society "buds" can eclipse the younger men in handling a motor car. The reason is simple—the majority of the best known young women joined the Motor Corps and drove their cars in these stirring times twelve hours each day.

The first debutante will make her formal bow to society tomorrow when Miss Myra Morgan will be presented at a large reception. The second will be Miss Anne Morgan, whose mother, Mrs. George Barnett, will entertain at a reception Tuesday afternoon at the Marine Barracks. There will be two out-of-town debuts this week of great interest here. Millicent Rogers will be introduced to New York society

tomorrow and Margie James will be presented Tuesday in Baltimore by her step-mother, who was Isabel Hagner of this city.

Both Mrs. Rogers and Millicent are looking forward to a very strenuous social season—Millicent is a debutante.

Millicent bids fair to be one of the leading "buds" of the winter. She is a great heiress, the Rogers fortune being one of the great fortunes of America. In addition to making her bow in New York, Millicent will come out in Washington, where her mother has had a house for several seasons past.

According to present plans Millicent is scheduled to blossom forth tomorrow night when Mrs. Rogers give a large ball at the Ritz-Carlton in her honor. Many dinner parties will precede the dance, and it will, in a way, be the first debutante ball of the season in New York.

Rivaling the buds for the center of the social stage last week were the delegates to the International Labor Conference being held in this city. Practically all of the heads of the various embassies and legations gave at least one party for the delegates from their particular country to the conference and some of them, the Swiss Minister and Mme. Suter, for example, gave two parties. Among the young women entertained were the Spanish Ambassador and Mme. Riano; also Baron Mayor des Planches, who used to be Ambassador from Italy to this country and is now a delegate to the conference. Another delegate, Viscount de Ezra, gave two dinners, and H. B. Butler, who is secretary of the conference, entertained the British delegates.

## LANSINGS ARE HONOR GUESTS.

The Spanish delegates were given a dinner by Alfonso Sala and Louis Guerin entertained the French members of the conference. The special mission from Guatemala was also the center of attraction for some of the week's entertaining. Don Joaquin Mendez, the minister of Guatemala, entertained them as did also the Secretary of State Robert Lansing. The former gave a dinner party and the latter a luncheon last Friday. And the Greek minister was given a dinner by the Tsamados.

The Lansings were the honor guests at a dinner which Mrs. Ross Thompson gave one evening. The Assistant Secretary of the Navy and Mrs. Franklin Roosevelt were dinner hosts last week as was also Mrs. Marshall Field, who gave a luncheon besides. There were a number of tea parties last week and the first of them at the Montgomery Country Club for the Working Boys' Home took place; not to mention the weddings; there were two of special interest here and in New York. Miss Letta Adams became the bride of Commander George S. Bryan, and Frances Jane Rayner married David Loudon Johnson, while in New York Miss Isabel Stettinius and John B. March were married. I almost forgot the wedding there last Monday of Anne Cruger and Alex. Paternotte, of the Belgian Embassy staff.

Three New York weddings, the Prince of Wales and the horse show, between them, attracted a large share of Washington society to New York during the week just past. People were in New York and forth between the two places all week. Marguerite Simonds, who went up there to pay a visit and to attend some of the parties given by the prince, is coming home in time for Amy Grosvenor's debut Tuesday. Apparently Marguerite made a bigger hit with the youthful heir to the British throne than any other of the Washington girls. She beautifully fulfilled I can well understand why he was attracted to her.

Miss Simonds, who made her debut here last winter is the daughter of one of the oldest and most aristocratic—also very wealthy—families of the very snobbish and select town of Charleston, S. C. Her mother was "Daisy"—I think her real name is also Marguerite—Breaux, daughter of the late Judge Breaux, of New Orleans and a most delightful and attractive woman. After Mr. Simonds' death she was married to Barker (Gumby) of the leading and wealthiest families of Princeton and Trenton, N. J. A number of years after she was a widow for the second time she married a distant relative, George S. Bryan, and took up her residence in New Hampshire and just across the street from the Leiter mansion. And it was there that the prince called upon Miss Simonds whom he had met earlier at the tea dance which Mrs. Joseph Leiter gave for him. And it is said that some of the girls were so insanely jealous because of the prince's marked preference for the delightful little southern beauty that they quite forgot they were supposed to be ladies and were disgustingly rude to Miss Simonds—which of course hurt no one but themselves. Miss Simonds by birth and breeding is unquestionably entitled to go with the best society in any city

and can well afford to smile complacently and playfully at such unmistakable evidence of ill-breeding.

## THE GAME WAS WORTH CANDLE.

Like the "foursome" that went down to White Sulphur while the prince was there; they feel that the fun they had was worth all of the criticism they had to stand for. Miss Simonds had so much fun at the parties given for the prince that it was worth having a few girls get insanely jealous and "catty." So many people saw how some of the girls acted that the story of it has been well circulated and of course no one expressed it mildly, admires the girls for their chutzpah. And I always think that when such things happen, that it never pays; the old saying, "The wheels of the gods grind slow," the day may come when those very girls will wish they had not been so inexcusably rude to Miss Simonds.

Lots of people seem to think that the girls who went to White Sulphur did an undignified thing, but as I said, the girls feel that they had such a wonderful time that it makes up for such criticism. Those girls had planned to go down there before the prince reached Washington, but I'm sure they knew he was going when they made those plans. It was all part of the scheme which the young members of the British embassy staff had to make the prince have a good time with some boys and to their around his own age. The prince and his suite urged Marguerite to go down there too, but she didn't.

It is so easy to criticize other people; some people do it so easily. Yet I would like to bet that lots of the mothers who criticize those girls would have allowed their daughters to have gone if they had supposed they would have seen anything of the prince after they got there. I think it would have been a shame for the girls to have missed the prince. The prince would have missed lots of fun, too, for he had not gone. For instance, he adores to dance and he certainly wouldn't have danced down there with the members of his suite, now could he?

In addition to the debutante parties already scheduled for this week, there are three balls on the calendar, the Thanksgiving ball given by the Army and Navy game at the end of the week. That is going to attract drives of people to New York at the same time.

Nancy Lane and her two close friends, Frances Hampson and Letta Adams, are going up. Miss Lane and Miss Hampson will be guests of Mrs. H. H. Adams and Letta Adams at the game.

Mr. and Mrs. George Barton French, of New York, have issued invitations for a dinner party next Wednesday evening in honor of Miss Nancy Lane, who will go up to New York early in the week and remain over for the game.

## FRANCES WHITING SAILS SATURDAY.

That is the day that Frances Whiting will sail for Paris to spend the winter with her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Laurence Bonet. Her parents, Maj. and Mrs. E. E. Whiting, and her aunt, Mrs. W. E. Glazebrook, are all going up with her Thursday to see her off. Then a bunch of people, who will be in New York for the game, are going to see her off that morning.

She had planned to attend the game with a large party, but is sailing that day instead. She is going to have a wonderful time over there, for the Bonets are real people, you know, have plenty of money, and go with the cream of society in "gay Paree." Mrs. Bonet has just received a very high and rare decoration from the Legion of Honor, from the French government; an extremely high distinction. They are not given to many men and few women. Her friends over here, who have been so much help to her in her work during the war, will be interested to hear of it. I'm sure. She was formerly Margaret Cox of this city. She was one of the organizers of the ladies' committee of the American ambulance in August, 1914, and secretary of the committee from August 4, 1914, to July 21, 1917. The latest great honor is in recognition of her services in connection with propaganda work in this country throughout the war. Her efforts resulted in obtaining important sums and great supplies of bandages and

other essentials for the benefit of the American ambulance, the French army and the allied forces generally.

Mrs. Bonet served as a nurse at the American ambulance from September 1, 1914, to July 21, 1917, and was in charge of the donation department from May 1, 1915, to July 21, 1917. She has been an associate member of the Union des Colonies Etrangères en Faveur des Victimes de la Guerre since January 1, 1916; since November 1, 1917, she was connected with the Duryea War Relief, taking that work up when the Red Cross took over the work at the American ambulance, calling it American Hospital No. 1.

She was vice president and acting president of the Duryea War Relief for eighteen months. Mrs. Bonet is at present honorary president of the American group of the Oeuvre des Infirmes de Francaises et Alienes de France, and has ever rendered devoted service in matters connected with the wounded and with war refugees. As an organizer and propagandist, she has been of great assistance to French and allied hospitals and, in general, to the allied cause.

## HEART WAS IN THE WORK.

The best of it all is that her work was done from the heart and soul and never a thought of decorations or reward. She was one of the few who could do anything valuable in the dreadful war for the wounded and other victims. She was thankful her work had not ended, but just about the time the war ended she was almost on the verge of a breakdown. I hear that she has been showered with congratulations and lovely flowers, one a bunch of red roses tied with the ribbon of the decoration, and had dinners and luncheons galore given in her celebration of the great honor they say, to wet the red ribbon there isn't any prohibition, ever there!

Mr. Bonet is even more pleased with the honor shown his wife, so I hear, than even she is herself. You know he has received the same honor and it is quite unusual for both husband and wife to have been so highly honored. He has advanced two grades beyond, officer and now commander. One friend, when speaking of the distinction shown Mrs. Bonet, said: "You often wonder and ask why certain people are decorated, but all know why Mrs. Bonet was, as they know of her work of aid and her constant and continued devotion to the cause and she accomplished so much of value that they say, 'Well, this decoration is more than merited!'"

I have rambled a bit; I started to tell of the social activities planned for this week. There are two large dinner parties today: one with Mrs. Horace Westcott as hostess and the other given by Mrs. Charles Bromwell in compliment to Ambassador and Mrs. Thomas Nelson Page, who have been visiting here for a week or so, but are leaving the first of the week. Frances Hampson will be the honor guest at a debutante luncheon which Gladys Kalme will give tomorrow. There are three balls, one on Wednesday night, given for the benefit of the Episcopal Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital; one Thursday evening for the Navy Relief Society and one given by the Robert E. Lee Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy the next evening.

## CONGRESS IS EMPTY.

When you stop to think you wonder if there will be any one left in town to attend those balls; Congress was adjourned and all of the members have rushed home for a visit or gone to the Hot Springs or some such place to rest. Then half the town will go to the Army and Navy game or visiting for Thanksgiving.

By the middle of last week scurrying page boys, with their sleeves rolled high, were the only persons who trod over the velvet battlefield of the Senate, where so many oratorical skirmishes on the league of nations have been recorded for many weeks.

A trip to the House showed even less activity as the shades had been drawn low and there even the bustle of the page boys was lacking.

In fact, with the exception of scores of sightseers peering about the hollow sounding corridors, there was practically no activity whatever "under the dome" save out-

side and inside the Supreme Court chamber.

Washington had several musical treats last week, a whole week of opera and two concerts. The Washington Opera Company scored a decided success last week with its first offering, "Faust." It played to crowded houses at every performance and all during the seven days. Then Louise Homer gave a delightful recital on Thursday afternoon and that evening series of evening concerts when Ralph Leopold, the brother of Mrs. Newton Baker, and Florence Easton were the artists.

Among the box holders last week at the performance of Faust was Mrs. Ocie Hardesty-Sheppard, who is spending the winter in Washington, at 1701 I street. She is going to sing the leading role of Santuzza in "Cavalleria Rusticana," which will be the second opera to be put on by the Washington Opera Company. It will be given at the Belasco about the middle of December, the exact date has not yet been determined. Mrs. Hardesty has never been heard in Washington before, but is sure to delight her audience. She is very easy

to look at, in the first place, and has distinct personal charm. She is the wife of an army officer and is very active socially in the Capital.

## MRS. SHEPPARD WEST VIRGINIAN.

Mrs. Hardesty-Sheppard hails from West Virginia—Morgantown—and I saw an article in the Morgantown Post not long ago which spoke of her work: "The fourth and last graduation recital of the school of music was given at the Commencement Hall by Mrs. Ocie Hardesty-Sheppard. Her opening group consisted of three Italian songs, Pergolesi's 'O Serpina Penserete,' Handel's 'Renditi Sereno al Ciglio' and Donizetti's 'La Zingara.' These made a very interesting group, full of spirit, delicate technique and rich tone color. Her tones are round and distinctly clear and her interpretation of each number was faultless. Mrs. Sheppard sang two groups of English songs, which have remarkable melody and varied sentiment, all of which was brought out to advantage by Mrs. Sheppard's interpretation, perfect diction and control of voice. Particularly good were the

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